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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 1988

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OCA FILE

Handwritten: A/C, OHC, Budget, Sec Misc

Honorable William H. Webster
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

In the course of reviewing the annual budget request for the National Foreign Intelligence Program, the Committee must handle exceptionally sensitive intelligence information to determine proper program funding levels. Consequently, this information is generally limited to Defense Subcommittee Members and only a few specially cleared Professional Staff. In addition, the Committee has relied only on its own investigative and Professional Staff for selected in-depth reviews of intelligence programs rather than taken the more traditional Congressional approach of tasking the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, or the Office of Technology Assessment for such support. As Director Casey indicated to the Committee several years ago, "...erosion of the need-to-know principle has led to the unnecessary spread of sensitive information and a concomitant increase in the probability or actuality of leaks or compromise. We in the government and you in the Congress are constantly sensitive to the need for strict control of sensitive information..."

It is with this mutual concern for security in mind that I wish to thank you for making additional dedicated secure space available to support our Committee investigative and Professional Staff. When taken in conjunction with the existing space you have already generously made available in your Headquarters Complex, I believe the Committee will continue to meet the high

security standards that we all know to be so important in protecting sensitive intelligence programs while we fulfill our Constitutional mandate to provide funds for the common defense.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Chappell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Bill Chappell, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense